

**Transforming Daily**  
**“... He first loved us ...”**  
*1 John 4:19*

The present trend in churches today is to center everything about Christianity on the believer. This trend has caused far and wide spread casualties among believers and non-believers alike. The trend has reached every area of our belief system. Not the least of which has been the believer's view of Scripture, as well as the modern (postmodern/post-Christian) approaches to worship and ministry. The Bible is God's Self-revelation. The center piece has always been and always will be God. He is not the audience of One as we perform for His pleasure. He is the performer and the church is the “called out ones” to hear, “Thus says the Lord!” The commands of the Lord have nothing to do with how we feel, but how we follow. Scripture is clear that those who hear His voice, and follow His Word, love Him and belong to Him.

What many Christians have forgotten is that the present believer, before coming to know Christ as his or her personal Savior, was lost in their trespasses and sins. Between the lost person and the Savior lies enmity. Not on God's part, but the part of the sinner. Since the fall of Adam, it is not inherent for man/woman to love God or to want to have anything to do with God. Remember Adam and Eve's response to God and each other in the garden after they sinned? Their response was one of fear and shame. They covered themselves and hid from God. Why? They knowingly by choice removed themselves from the love of God and for each other through the lies of Satan. The lies that fed self-importance and the determination to be self-reliant still ring in the ears of the lineage of Adam and Eve.

The Bible is the inspired Word of God. The Scriptures reveal who God is and the love He has for mankind (most notably expressed through Jesus Christ, John 3:16). So it is to be understood that He initiates, sustains and completes all opportunities for relationship and fellowship between Him and all who will believe. In response, through faith the believer should take care to recognize God's love as an expression of His grace and mercy that we in turn may rightly love Him because he first loved us.